

Declaration of Local Emergency

WHEREAS, beginning in late 2019, the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, SARS-CoV-2, emerged causing a novel coronavirus disease, COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has now become a worldwide pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, the Governor of the State of Georgia declared that a Public Health State of Emergency exists in the State of Georgia due to the public health emergency from the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, cases of COVID-19 have been found in Gwinnett County; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to result in significant loss of life and has the potential to result in a major disruption of community affairs, business services, and governmental operations; and

WHEREAS, in order to mitigate or alleviate some of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Gwinnett County certain actions are needed; and

WHEREAS, based upon the President's Declaration of National Emergency and the Governor's Public Health State of Emergency, I believe that is in the best interest of the welfare of Gwinnett County and its residents to declare a local state of emergency to activate certain emergency powers under the Gwinnett County Emergency Management Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chairman of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners by local and state law;

IT IS HEREBY DECLARED that a local state of emergency exists due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

(1) That pursuant to the Code of Ordinances of Gwinnett County Section 34-22(d), the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners may:

- Utilize all available resources of the county and subordinate agencies over which the county has budgetary control as reasonably necessary to cope with the impact of COVID-19 on Gwinnett County;
- Provide benefits to citizens upon execution of an intergovernmental agreement for grants, if such are available, to meet COVID-19 related necessary expenses or serious needs of individuals or families adversely affected by COVID-19 in cases where the individuals or families are unable to meet the expenses or needs from other means, provided that such grants are authorized only when matching state or federal funds are available for such purpose;
- Utilize public property when necessary to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic or when there is compelling necessity for the protection of lives, health and welfare;
- Make provision for the availability and use of temporary emergency housing, emergency shelters, and/or emergency medical shelters;
- Temporarily suspend any law, code provision or regulation prescribing the procedures for conducting county business, or any ordinance, resolution, order, rule or regulation of any county or city agency, if strict compliance with such ordinance, resolution, order, rule or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency or disaster, provided that such suspension shall provide for the minimum deviation from the requirements under the circumstances and further provided that, when practicable, efforts shall be made to avoid adverse effects resulting from such suspension;
- Suspend or limit the sale, dispensing, or transportation of alcoholic beverages, explosives and flammable liquids and substances;

- Perform and exercise such other functions, powers and duties as may be deemed necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the population during COVID-19 Public Health State of Emergency.
- (2) Pursuant to Section 34-24 of the Gwinnett County Code of Ordinances, the county procedures for soliciting and advertising projects pursuant to the County's Purchasing Ordinance may be suspended during this local and state emergency to meet the needs of the County and its citizens in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (3) That this Declaration of Local Emergency shall continue until April 13, 2020 at 11:59 p.m., unless renewed in accordance with Section 34-21 of the Gwinnett County Code of Ordinances, or until such time as the Chairman finds that the emergency conditions no longer exist or the Declaration of Local Emergency is ended in accordance with Section 34-21(b).

This 16th day of March 2020 at 5:58 P.M.

Charlotte J. Nash

Charlotte J. Nash, Chairman
Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners

Diane Kemp

Diane Kemp, County Clerk



Approved as to Form:

Michael P. Ludwiczak

Michael P. Ludwiczak
County Attorney